Chinese authorities were often powerless to protect aliens against bandits and "Communists." As a result, in the 1920's, not since the treaties of 1858 authorized travel in the interior had foreign life and property been so unsafe. Scores—particularly those whose calling took them most outside the main centers, the missionaries—were captured by bandits and held for ransom.

In spite of the gain which the Chinese had made toward abolishing special foreign privileges, by 1931 these were far from having disappeared. Several of the powers, among them the majority of those having the chief commercial and territorial stakes in China—Great Britain, the United States, Japan, and France—retained most of what they had once possessed. Many alien residents still viewed the Chinese witn disdain. Foreign gunboats continued to patrol the coast and the Yangtze River and did not hesitate to fire on those attacking the persons or shipping of their nationals. The legations, reluctant to move to Nanking, were ensconced in their semi-fortress in Peking. China had made amazing inroads on the structure of alien control and privilege, but much of it remained.

RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN POWERS: KENEWED JAPANESE AGGRESSION: INITIAL STAGES, 1931-1937

In 1931 new and startling developments occurred which altered the entire situation in the Far East. Indeed, they were the preliminary stages of what culminated in the second world war of the twentieth century. So far as China was concerned, the slightly less than six years from September, 1931, to July, 1937, embraced the initial section of the renewed struggle with Japan. The second

portion was from July, 1937, to December, 1941, and the third section, which began in the last-named month, is not yet (1945), completed.

In September, 1931, Japan, for several years conciliatory and friendly, suddenly reversed its policy and began waging what in effect was an undeclared war on China. The Japanese had become increasingly restive over the Chinese encroachments on what they believed to be their rights in Manchuria. Japan was crowded and its population was rapidly growing with no chance of an outlet through emigration. The country had never recovered from the